Hello, everyone! My name is Bojun Sun, and I’m from Beijing, China. You may hear the name Bonnie, and this is because it is difficult to read my name for most of the students and teachers at the ELI.

I’m a graduate student with a major in integrated circuitry. My bachelor degree was Communication Engineering. Because I’m interested in both communication and integrated circuitry, I came to the US to obtain my second master degree in the area of wireless communication. I first heard of this excellent English program from my teacher. This program provides an international culture environment. After several weeks’ study, I have not only improved my English but also learned about other cultures, made new friends and learned some Spanish expressions as well. In the classes, teachers are passionate about teaching, and students are more energetic and active compared to Chinese teachers and students. Believe it or not, this is the first time I have left Beijing. I have had to handle everything by myself. During this time, I have improved my cooking skills as well. Look! These were the first dumplings and steaming dumpling (Bao Zi) I made with the help of Pu Fan & Yuan Zheng. We also invited our friends to our home and had a nice supper. All in all, it is a great program. It is much more than learning English. You should not miss out on it!
In their Own Words: Lady Correa by Jose Acosta

J.A.: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?
L.C.: Hi everyone! My name is Lady Correa, and I’m 20 years old. I was born in a city called Barquisimeto in Venezuela. By the way, I’m also a professional beach tennis player.

J.A.: How did this passion for beach tennis start?
L.C.: The story goes like this: When I was 3 years old, I started to practice regular tennis. I loved it and went to a lot of tournaments and competitions. I was really good at playing tennis since I put all my time and effort into it. I became number 7 in the junior category of all South America. However, I retired when I was 16 because I was really exhausted; I would practice for 8 hours everyday. Therefore, I decided to stop playing so that I could spend more time with my family and friends. Later on, when I turned 18, an old friend of mine from my tennis days invited me to play beach tennis. I wasn’t sure about playing again, but he said it would be fun. In fact, I had a wonderful time, and since then it has been one of my biggest passions.

J.A.: Is there any difference between beach tennis and regular tennis?
L.C.: Many people think that the only difference between beach tennis and regular tennis is the sand, but that’s not true. In tennis, you play with more pressure, people remain in complete silence and there is no noise while players are playing. On the other hand, beach tennis is more active. While you’re playing you can hear the crowd jumping and shouting, which transmits the passion and happiness they feel. In addition, in beach tennis you play with music, so you need better concentration. In addition, it also makes the game more entertaining.

J.A.: Why did you choose Miami to study English?
L.C.: I chose Miami because I think that it’s a good city to learn English, and it is the right city to practice my sport. One of my goals is to help beach tennis become more popular, and Miami is the perfect city to do that. Besides, I know that here I can become the best beach tennis player and pursue my major.

J.A.: What do you like the most about the ELI?
L.C.: There are a lot of things that I like about the ELI. I think that it is very strict because of the rules. It is really good, in my opinion. Also, I like the classes because the professors are really good. They make the classes very interesting and interactive. But, what I like the most about the ELI is the fact that it has supported me with my passion for beach tennis and given me all the help that I’ve needed.
Literary Corner by Alyssa Alayeto

Selected Reading: “The Conqueror Worm” by Edgar Allan Poe

Author’s note: Read the poem before you read the article. You can find the webpage for the poem at the bottom of this article.

Known for his dark and gloomy tales and poems Edgar Allan Poe left his grim mark in the literary world. You may be familiar with his anxiety ridden story The Tell Tale Heart or his lyrical lament “The Raven.” However, this particular poem, “The Conqueror Worm,” reveals a cryptic summary of how Poe viewed life: hopeless. As we explore this poem we will find how word choice and general rhetorical devices (like imagery and personification) are employed by Poe to relay his grim message.

Beginning with vocabulary this poem lays down its message with weighted language. The very first line draws attention to the spectacle about to happen claiming the situation to be a “gala.” The word gala means a public entertainment marking a special occasion, according to Webster’s online dictionary. This is interesting because as the poem unravels the reader finds that while this is a play (of which the audience is a group of angels), thus indeed a public form of entertainment, the special occasion is grim. It doesn’t take long to find out that the occasion is a sorrowful ending shown through the second line’s use of the words “lonesome latter years.” The word latter means the end of a process, and the process these angels are mourning is man’s life. The “fitful” (meaning erratic and irregular) music the orchestra plays sets the tone for this messy and difficult end: the tragedy of man. Further revealing the purposeless life man leads, running in circles and always returning “to the self-same spot.” This spot is where Madness, Sin, and Horror consume man’s mind, this negative force will always reign victorious in the end. Without doubt, Poe’s poem is a dark example of his perception of life. With no hope for salvation, no hope for fulfillment, and no hope for escape, “The Conqueror Worm” reveals the bleak and black depths of Poe’s mind.

http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/178359
The ELI newsletter is a bi-weekly publication of the English Language Institute that updates students on upcoming events and important dates. It invites students to participate in its publication process. It also includes news, trivia, quotes and reading suggestions. You may e-mail any suggestion to Laura Lamour at: llamo001@fiu.edu. The ELI newsletter is produced by ELI instructor Laura Lamour.

The ELI Goes to the Beach